

INTERNAL SECURITY**Naga Peace Talks**

Recently, the Nagaland Government appealed to all Naga political groups and extremist groups to cooperate in establishing unity, reconciliation and peace in the region. The peace process between the central government and two sets of the Naga extremist groups has been delaying for more than 23 years.

Nagas

- Nagas are a hill people who are estimated to number about 2.5 million (1.8 million in Nagaland, 0.6 million in Manipur and 0.1 million in Arunachal states) and living in the remote and mountainous country between the Indian state of Assam and Myanmar. There are also Naga groups in Myanmar.
- The Nagas are not a single tribe, but an ethnic community that comprises several tribes who live in the state of Nagaland and its neighbourhood.
- Nagas belong to the Indo-Mongoloid Family.
- There are nineteen major Naga tribes, namely, Aos, Angamis, Changs, Chakesang, Kabuis, Kacharis, Khain-Mangas, Konyaks, Kukis, Lothas (Lothas), Maos, Mikirs, Phoms, Rengmas, Sangtams, Semas, Tankhuls, Yamchumgar and Zeeliang.

Key Points**Background of Naga Insurgency:**

- The Naga Hills became part of British India in 1881.
- The effort to bring scattered Naga tribes together resulted in the formation of the Naga Club in 1918. The club aroused a sense of Naga nationalism.
- The club metamorphosed into the Naga National Council (NNC) in 1946.
- Under the leadership of Angami Zapu Phizo, the NNC declared Nagaland as an independent State on 14th August, 1947, and conducted a "referendum" in May 1951 to claim that 99.9% of the Nagas supported a "sovereign Nagaland".
- Nagaland achieved statehood in December 1963. Nagaland was formed out of the Naga Hills district of Assam and the then North East Frontier Agency (NEFA) province (now Arunachal Pradesh).
- In 1975, under the Shillong Accord, some factions of NNC and NFG (Naga Federal Government) agreed to give up arms.
- A group of about 140 members led by Thuingaleng Muivah, who was at that time in China, refused to accept the Shillong Accord and formed the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) in 1980.
- In 1988, the NSCN split into NSCN (IM) and NSCN (K) after a violent clash.
- While the NNC began to fade away, and Phizo died in London in 1991, the NSCN (IM) came to be seen as the "mother of all insurgencies" in the region.

Demands of Naga Groups:

- The key demand of Naga groups has been a Greater Nagalim (sovereign statehood) i.e redrawing of boundaries to bring all Naga-inhabited areas in the Northeast under one administrative umbrella. It includes various parts of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Assam and Myanmar as well.
- The demand also includes the separate Naga Yezabo (Constitution) and Naga national flag.

Peace Initiatives:

- **Shillong Accord (1975):** A peace accord was signed in Shillong in which the NNC leadership agreed to give up arms. However, several leaders refused to accept the agreement, which led to the split of NNC.
- **Ceasefire Agreement (1997):** The NSCN-IM signed a ceasefire agreement with the government to stop attacks on Indian armed forces. In return, the government would stop all counter-insurgency offensive operations.
- **Framework Agreement (2015):** In this agreement, the Government of India recognised the unique history, culture and position of the Nagas and their sentiments and aspirations.
- Recently, the State government decided to prepare the Register of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland but later due to pressure from various factions, the decision was put on hold.

Issues:

- The 2015 agreement apparently made the peace process inclusive but it created suspicion about the central government exploiting divisions within the Nagas on tribal and geopolitical lines.

- The issue of integration of contiguous Naga-inhabited areas of Manipur, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh in view of the demand for territorial unification of 'Greater Nagalim' will trigger violent clashes in the different affected states.
- Another major hindrance to the peace process in Nagaland is the existence of more than one organisation, each claiming to be representative of the Nagas.

Way Forward

- The Centre must negotiate with all the factions and groups of the Insurgents to have a long-lasting peace. Further, their cultural, historical and territorial extent must be taken into consideration.
- Any arrangement to be worked out should lead to social and political harmony, economic prosperity and protection of the life and property of all tribes and citizens of the states.
- Another way of dealing with the issue can be maximum decentralisation of powers to the tribal heads and minimum centralisation at the apex level, which should mainly work towards facilitating governance and undertaking large development projects.
- Greater autonomy for the Naga inhabited areas in these states can be provided which would encompass separate budget allocations for the Naga inhabited areas with regard to their culture and development issues.
- Moreover, the Centre must keep in mind that most of the armed insurgencies across the world do not end in either total victory or comprehensive defeat, but in a grey zone called 'compromise'.

SOCIAL ISSUE

Acute Encephalitis Syndrome

The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) has provided tap water supply to more than 97 lakh households in five JE-AES (Japanese Encephalitis-Acute Encephalitis Syndrome) affected states. The five states with priority districts are Assam, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Key Points

Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES):

- **About:** AES is a severe case of encephalitis transmitted by mosquitoes and is characterized by high fever and inflammation of the brain. The World Health Organisation (WHO) in 2006, coined the term AES to signify a group of diseases which seem similar to one another but are difficult to differentiate in the chaotic environment of an outbreak.
- **Vulnerable Population:** The disease most commonly affects children and young adults and can lead to considerable morbidity and mortality.
- **Causative Agents:** Viruses are the main causative agents in AES cases, although other sources such as bacteria, fungi, parasites, spirochetes, chemicals, toxins, and noninfectious agents have also been reported over the past few decades. It is not vaccine-preventable.
 1. Japanese Encephalitis virus (JEV) is the major cause of AES in India (ranging from 5%-35%).
 2. Herpes simplex virus, Nipah virus, Zika virus, Influenza A virus, West Nile virus, Chandipura virus, mumps, measles, dengue, scrub typhus, S.pneumoniae are also found as causative agents for AES.
- **Symptoms:** Confusion, disorientation, coma, or inability to talk, high fever, vomiting, nausea, and unconsciousness.
- **Diagnosis:** The National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) in India has set up countrywide surveillance for AES through sentinel sites with a focus on detecting Japanese Encephalitis (JEV). In the sentinel surveillance network, AES/JE is diagnosed by IgM Antibody Capture ELISA, and virus isolation is done in the National Reference Laboratory.

Status of AES in India:

- According to the NVBDCP, 10,485 AES cases were diagnosed in 2018 with 632 deaths across 17 states.
- India records fatality rate at 6% in AES, but the fatality rises to 25% amongst children.
- Bihar, Assam, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Tripura are worst affected.

Government Initiatives:

To reduce morbidity and mortality the government of India developed a multi-pronged strategy with the convergence of the concerned ministries.

- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare: Strengthening and expanding JE vaccination, Strengthening of public health activities, Better clinical management of JE/AES Cases etc.
- Ministry of Jal Shakti for the provision of safe water supply.

- Women and Child development for providing high-quality nutrition to vulnerable children.
- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for establishing District Disability Rehabilitation Centers for disability management and rehabilitation.
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for ensuring the supply of safe water in slums and towns.
- Ministry of Education to provide special facilities for disabled children for their education.

BIODIVERSITY & ENVIRONMENT

Conservation Plans for Cities along Rivers

A policy document from National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has proposed that cities situated on river banks should incorporate river conservation plans when they prepare their Master Plans. The recommendations are currently for towns that are on the main stem of the river Ganga which are in five States — Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal. NMCG is the implementation wing of National Ganga Council (set in 2016; which replaced the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA)). Along with its state counterpart organizations, NMCG implements the Namami Gange Programme.

Key Points

Emphasis of the Policy Document:

- On the need for river-sensitive plans that must be practical (as envisaged in the National Water Policy).
- There should be a systematic rehabilitation plan to remove encroachment that emphasizes on alternative livelihood options along with a proper relocation strategy.
- Planners should make every attempt to engage stakeholders (encroacher, land owners) in order to develop empathetic and humane solutions.
- The plan must also clarify on land ownership. Ascertaining the land ownership in these areas is important to avoid legal complications while the Plan is being implemented.
- A key aspect of conserving and protecting river and riverine resources involves increasing green cover in the vicinity of the river by creating green buffers, removing concrete structures and employing “green infrastructure.”

Significance:

- The Master Plan can “create an environment” for facilitating the use of state-of-the-art technologies for river management. These include satellite-based monitoring of water quality; artificial intelligence for riverine biodiversity mapping; big data and citizen science for river-health monitoring; unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) for floodplain mapping.
- In coming years the nature and type of technologies are expected to become more sophisticated and effective. Thus, the cities will be ready to embrace these seamlessly.

Key Features of National Water Policy, 2012

- **Integrated Water Resources Management:** It laid down the concept of an Integrated Water Resources Management approach that took the river basin/sub-basin as a unit for planning, development, and management of water resources. Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) is a process that promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources in order to maximize the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems.
- **Minimum Water Flow:** To maintain the minimum flow of a portion of a river to meet ecological needs.
 1. In 2018, such an approach led the government to require minimum water levels to be maintained in the Ganga throughout the year by refraining from hoarding water beyond a point.
 2. Emphasis was also made to make a minimum quantity of potable water available to citizens for maintaining essential health and hygiene.
- **Inter-basin Transfers:** To meet basic human needs and achieve equity and social justice, inter-basin transfers of water need to be considered on the basis of the merits of each case after evaluating the environmental, economic and social impacts of such transfers.
- Other reasons such as decreasing spring sets in Himalayas, budgeting and restructuring of water subsidies, irrigation, etc. demanded the prioritization of water usage.

2. Lemru Elephant Reserve

Recently, the Chhattisgarh government has proposed to reduce the area of Lemru Elephant Reserve from 1,995 sq km to 450 sq km. The Centre gave its approval in 2007 for the creation of the 450 sq km Lemru Elephant Reserve and in 2019, the state government decided to increase the area to 1,995 sq km.

Key Points

About:

- The reserve is located in the Korba district of Chhattisgarh.
 - The reserve is aiming at reducing human-animal conflict and destruction of property in addition to providing a permanent habitat to the elephants.
 - Earlier, the state government notified the reserve (Conservation Reserve) in October 2020 under Section 36A of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (WLPA).
1. Section 36A has a special provision that gives the Union government a say in the process of notification in case the land to be notified as conservation reserve has areas belonging to the Centre.
 2. Elephant reserves are not recognised under the WLPA.

Reason for Reducing Size:

- The area proposed under the reserve is part of the Hasdeo Aranya forests, a very diverse biozone that is also rich in coal deposits.
- Of 22 coal blocks in the area, 7 have already been allotted with mines running in three, and in the process of being established in the other four.
- The biggest challenge in increasing the reserve area was that several coal mines would become unusable.

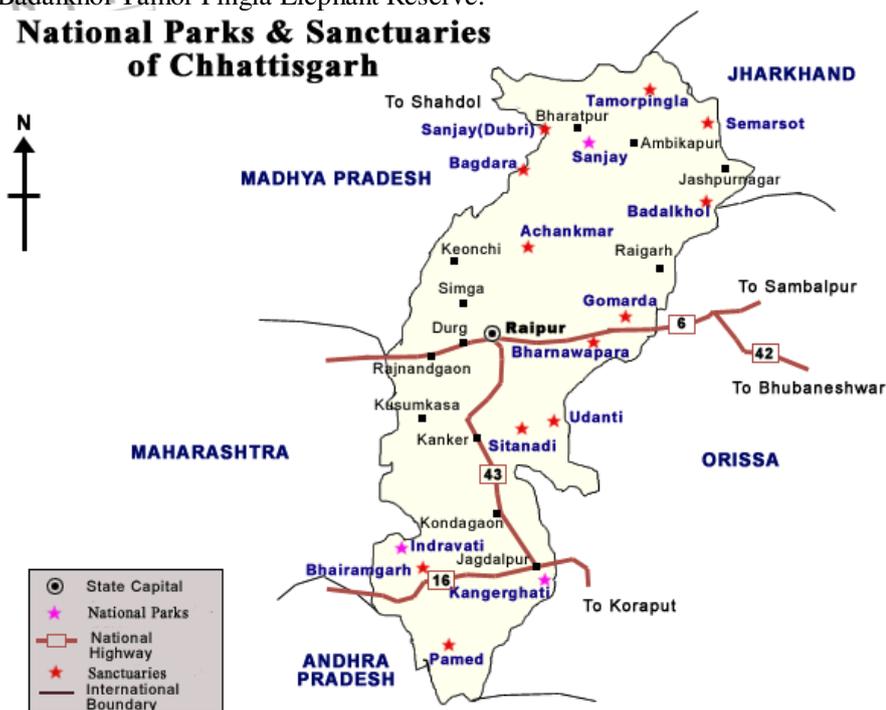
Significance of Reserve:

- North Chhattisgarh alone is home to over 240 elephants. More than 150 elephants have died in the state over the last 20 years, including 16 between June and October 2020.
- Elephants in Chhattisgarh are relatively new; they started moving into undivided Madhya Pradesh (MP) in 1990.
- While MP had a policy of pushing back the animals coming from Jharkhand, after Chhattisgarh was formed, the lack of a formal policy allowed elephants to use as a corridor a route in the north and central parts of the state.
- Since these animals were relatively new, human-animal conflict started once elephants started straying into inhabited areas, looking for food.

Other Protected Areas in Chhattisgarh:

- Achanakmar Tiger Reserve.
- Indravati Tiger Reserve.
- Sitanadi-Udanti Tiger Reserve
- Kanger Valley National Park
- Badalkhol Tamor Pingla Elephant Reserve.

National Parks & Sanctuaries of Chhattisgarh



3.India's First Cryptogamic Garden

Recently, India's first cryptogamic garden was inaugurated in the Chakrata town of Dehradun, Uttarakhand. The garden will be housing nearly 50 species of lichens, ferns and fungi (collectively known as Cryptogamae).

Key Points

Factors Responsible for Location of this Garden:

- This garden is at Deoban in Chakrata at a height of 9,000 ft.
- This site is chosen because of its low pollution levels and moist conditions which are conducive for the growth of these species.
- Further, Deoban has pristine majestic forests of Deodar and Oak which create a natural habitat for cryptogamic species.

Cryptogams:

- A cryptogam is a plant that reproduces with the help of spores.
- The word "Cryptogamae" implies 'hidden reproduction', referring to the fact that they do not produce any reproductive structure, seed, or flower.
- Due to this, they are called "flowerless" or "seedless plants" or 'lower plants'.
- They need a moist environment to survive.
- These are present in aquatic and terrestrial places.
- Algae, bryophytes, lichens, ferns and fungi are the best-known groups of cryptogams.

Classification of Cryptogams:

Cryptogams are classified into 3 groups based on the various structural and functional criteria of the plant.

- **Thallophyta:** Thallophyta is a division of the plant kingdom including primitive forms of plant life showing a simple plant body. They lack roots, stems, or leaves.
 1. It includes algae-like Spirogyra, Sargassum, etc.
 2. They are predominantly aquatic and found both in marine as well as freshwater habitats.
- **Bryophyta:** Bryophytes comprise a limited variety of non-vascular land plants. They prefer moist habitats but they can survive in dry environments too. Example- hornworts, liverworts, mosses, etc.
 1. They occupy an intermediate position between algae and pteridophytes.
 2. Since bryophytes can survive in both water and land, they are considered as the 'amphibians of the plant kingdom'.
- **Pteridophyta:** A pteridophyte is a vascular plant that disperses spores. It is the first plant to have xylem and phloem. Ferns are the largest living group of primitive vascular plants.

Other Types of Cryptogams:

- **Lichens:** Lichens are a complex life form that is a symbiotic partnership of two separate organisms, a fungus and an algae.
- **Fungi:** It is a kingdom of usually multicellular eukaryotic organisms that are heterotrophs.

IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIM

Kesaria Buddha Stupa: Bihar

The world-famous Kesaria Buddha stupa in east Champaran district of Bihar is waterlogged following floods in some parts of the district. The ASI (Archaeological Survey of India) has declared it a protected monument of national importance.

Key Points

About:

- The stupa is said to be the tallest and the largest Buddhist stupa in the world.
- It is located in Kesariya, at a distance of 110 kilometers from Patna, in the East Champaran district of Bihar.
- It has a circumference of almost 400 feet and stands at a height of about 104 feet.

History:

- The first construction of the Stupa is dated to the 3rd century BCE. The original Kesaria stupa probably dates to the time of Ashoka (circa 250 BCE), as the remains of a capital of a Pillar of Ashoka were discovered there.
- The current stupa dates to the Gupta Dynasty between 200 AD and 750 AD and may have been associated with the 4th century ruler Raja Chakravarti.
- The stupa mound may even have been inaugurated during the Buddha's time, as it corresponds in many respects to the description of the stupa erected by the Licchavis of Vaishali to house the

alms bowl the Buddha has given them. In ancient times, Kesaria was under the rule of the Mauryas and the Licchavis.

- Two great foreign travelers, Faxian (Fahien) and Xuan Zang (Hsuan Tsang), had visited this place in ancient times and have left interesting and informative accounts of their travels.
- The discovery of gold coins bearing the seal of the famous emperor Kanishka of the Kushan dynasty (AD 30 to AD 375) goes on to further establish the ancient heritage of Kesaria.

Exploration:

- The stupa's exploration had started in the early 19th century after its discovery led by Colonel Mackenzie in 1814.
- Later, it was excavated by General Cunningham in 1861-62 and in 1998 an ASI team led by archaeologist K.K. Muhammad had excavated the site properly.

Other Popular in Bihar:

- Maha Bodhi Temple
- Nalanda Mahavihara
- Rohtasgarh Fort

2. India Industrial Land Bank

The India Industrial Land Bank (IILB), a GIS-based portal, has seen a 30% increase in page views each month since April 2021.

Key Points**India Industrial Land Bank (IILB):**

- Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT) has developed IILB portal, a GIS-enabled database of industrial areas/clusters across the country to adopt a committed approach towards resource optimization, industrial upgradation and sustainability.
- The portal serves as a one-stop solution to the free and easy accessibility of all industrial information including availability of raw material, agriculture, horticulture, minerals, natural resources; distance from key logistic nodes; layers of terrain and urban infrastructure.
- It aims to provide information on available land for prospective investors looking at setting up units in the Country.
- It also provides links to State GIS Portals and State Land Banks.

Geographic Information System (GIS):

- A GIS is a computer system for capturing, storing, checking, and displaying data related to positions on Earth's surface.
- By relating seemingly unrelated data, GIS can help individuals and organizations better understand spatial patterns and relationships.
- GIS can use any information that includes location. The location can be expressed in many different ways, such as latitude and longitude, address, or ZIP code.
- GIS can include data about people, such as population, income, or education level. It can also include information about the sites of factories, farms, and schools, or storm drains, roads, and electric power lines etc.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns. One Health concept is ever more relevant as the world is facing a second wave of Covid-19 pandemic. Comment.

Ans:

Introduction

One Health approach, focuses on acknowledging the interconnectedness of animals, humans, and the environment. It involves a multi-disciplinary and cross-sectoral approach to address potential or existing risks that originate at the animal-human-ecosystems interface.

Body**Need for One Health Concept**

- Scientists have observed that there are more than 1.7 million viruses circulating in wildlife, and many of them are likely to be zoonotic. This implies that unless there is timely detection, India risks facing many more pandemics in times to come.
- The transboundary impact of viral outbreaks in recent years such as the Nipah virus, Ebola, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Avian Influenza has further reinforced the need for One Health approach.

Steps to Implement One Health Approach

- Consolidating Disease Surveillance: There is a need for consolidating existing animal health and disease surveillance systems — e.g., the Information Network for Animal Productivity and Health, and the National Animal Disease Reporting System.
- Developing Guidelines: Developing best-practice guidelines for informal market and slaughterhouse operation and creating mechanisms to operationalise ‘One Health’ at every stage down to the village level.
- Holistic Collaboration: One Health initiatives, by their multidisciplinary nature, entail working across ministries and navigating tacit institutional hierarchies and allocating leadership roles.
- Establishing Institutional Mechanism: There is no single agency or framework that embraces all interdisciplinary sectorial players under a single umbrella to carry forward the ‘One Health’ agenda. Thus, a proper institutional mechanism must be set up to implement One Health concept.

Conclusion

The father of modern pathology, Rudolf Virchow, emphasised in 1856 that there are essentially no dividing lines between animal and human medicine. This concept is ever more relevant as the world is facing a second wave of Covid-19 pandemic.

DAILY QUIZ

Q1. Consider the following statements:

1. Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) is the premier agency under the Ministry of Culture.
2. Films can be publicly exhibited in India only after they have been certified by the Central Board of Film Certification.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- a. 1 only **b. 2 only** c. Both 1 and 2 d. Neither 1 nor 2

Q2. Consider the following statements:

1. The Citizenship Act, 1955, does not distinguish between heterosexual, same-sex or queer spouses.
2. The Supreme Court of India in their judgment in Navtej Singh Johar case decriminalised all consensual sex among adults, including homosexual sex.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- a. 1 only b. 2 only **c. Both 1 and 2** d. Neither 1 nor 2

Q3. Consider the following statements about National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG):

1. It is the implementation wing of National Ganga Council (NGC).
2. It has a two tier management structure.
3. It is chaired by Prime Minister of India.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- a. 1 only **b. 1 and 2 only** c. 2 and 3 only d. 1 and 3 only

Q4. Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

1. Umbrella Movement: Hong Kong
2. Yellow vests movement: China
3. White flag movement: Malaysia

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- a. 1 only b. 2 and 3 only **c. 1 and 3 only** d. 1, 2 and 3

Q5. Consider the following statements about Ethiopia:

1. It is a landlocked country in the Horn of Africa.
2. It shares borders with Egypt.
3. It is in the process of constructing a Grand Renaissance Dam on the Blue Nile River.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- a. 1 and 2 only b. 2 and 3 only **c. 1 and 3 only** d. 1, 2 and 3